

INTERVIEW WITH MR. AND MRS. CARLSTED

January 29, 1977

Conducted by:

Dr. James L. Dodson

--and--

Miss Paula Boyer

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Dodson: Mr. Carlsted, I wonder if you would uh give us your full name, and Mrs. Carlson, and tell us how long youv'e lived here in the Valley.

Mr. Carlsted: I'm Paul S. Carlsted, and my wife's name is uh Ruth E.. We came to the Valley in uh 1913.

Dodson: Where did you, where did you come from, Mr. Carlson?

Mr. Carlsted: Well years prior to that I had been with the Kimbel Pipe Organ Company, W. W. Kimbel Company in Chicago, and uh I heard rumors of a organ factory somewhere in Los Angeles. And also, I had read about the oil wells surround in the Ocean of Torrance.

Mrs. Carlsted: That he had to see.

Mr. Carlsted: That was intriguing. So one Sunday afternoon after reading the sunday paper, I decided I was going to take a little trip out there and find out. Which I did.

Paula Boyer: That's quite a big little trip.

Mr. Carlsted: And I came out and tried to find that organ factory, and nobody seemed to know. Until somebody said, "Get out on North Main Street car and ask the people out there. There's some kind of a factory out in there, the hospital over there." So I did, and the conductor said, "I don't know about a pipe organ factory. I think there's a piano factory out there, and I'll tell you where to go." So he left me off at Sitral[Sp?] Street, and uh I went over and uh found this organ factory instead of a piano factory. And I introduced myself to the superintendent, and uh told him what I had done at Kimbel. I had worked there for about two

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Mr. Carlsted: years. And I uh thought I'd come out West and see what the West looked like.

Dodson: Well you got your job at the organ factory then, did you Mr. Carlsted?

Mr. Carlsted: Well he looked me over and said uh, "Well I've been doing all of this work myself, but maybe it would be a good idea to let you take over and I'll take a rest." And uh he said uh, "What were they paying you at Kimbel[sp?]?" I said, "The standard going wage, two dollars a day." And he said, "Will you..."

Mrs. Carlsted: Will you folks stand that here?

Mr. Carlsted: "...take that here?" And I said, "Yes, o.k. lets go." And uh I was on. And I stayed With him for about uh two years. Until the people in Van Nuys uh...

Mrs. Carlsted: Mainly Whitsets [Sp.], Mr. and Mrs. Whitset [Sp.]...

Mr. Carlsted: Mr. Whitley[Sp.] and some others...

Mrs. Carlsted: W.B. Whitset and Whitley[Sp.].

Mr. Carlsted: Got the man who uh had bought over the Miriam [Sp.] Harris [Sp.] Company, which it was called when I first came with it. And uh he had bought it over and transferred it in for the name The California Organ Company. Well he came out here, and they made a deal, and moved the entire plant out in 1913. At that time they employed probably uh thirty or forty men, and uh at the time that they closed operation they must have had one hundred and fifty people working for them.

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Dodson: When did that operation close then, Mr. Carlsted?

Mr. Carlsted: It closed the first time in 1919. And the Kimbel Company wanted me back, and uh I went back to them. But uh they reorganized again about nine months later, and uh the people out here wanted me back again, so out I came-very glad to come back again. And uh the last time they closed was in 1929 or 30, when uh competition got pretty keen between uh organ builders and others. And uh they stopped operations.

Paula Boyer: Then this was one of the first industries in the Valley.

Mr. Carlsted: That was the first industry in the Valley. Of course uh this time it was a case of uh not looking for a pipe organ factory, but getting into something else.

Paula Boyer: Uh huh.

Mr. Carlsted: So uh I got a job with The Los Angeles School Board after having put in about a year and a half at Santa Barbara College to get my credential. And I recall when I went down to see this man who was putting people on in different departments. He said Mr. Carlsted, "Do you remember me?" I said, "No, I don't." Well he said, "I remember you." He said, "I was out there about a year ago or more and you took us through the plant and showed us all the wonderful work you were doing there, and all the intricate wiring, tuning, and things of that nature." And he said uh, "I think you're on", just like that.

Mrs. Carlsted: It isn't like that today is it ...[?]...?

Mr. Carlsted: So I taught mechanical drawing and woodshop for some twenty...from 1931 until 1956 at which time I retired.

Mrs. Carlsted: When did you become Superintendent of Contruction?

Mr. Carlsted: Well over the years why things changed a little bit. And from the drafting room why I was made Assistant Superintendent of Construction at the plant about 1925.

Mrs. Carlsted: May I interset a little thought here? I'm sorry I'm so hoarse. The organ factory at that time was very busy, because it was the day of silent pictures. And uh you see most of the theatre's organs went to the of the big theatres hither and yon, they shipped them all over. And it was very busy, it was'nt only church organs, they did make church organs. They built the one for Riverside Mission. You know the Riverside Mission, it's very famous?

Dodson: Yes.

Mr. Carlsted: Well, no. You're mistaken there.

Mrs. Carlsted: Oh, I'm sorry.

Mr. Carlsted: We built an addition to the one. But while I was at Kimbel, I made drawings for the organ that went into the Riverside Mission Inn. And uh that's how the mention was made of that.

Dodson: What sort of work did you do in the organ factory, Mr. Carlsted?

Mr. Carlsted: Well as I said, I had worked at the bench for about two years before I left Kimbel, and about a year at the drafting room at Kimbel. And with that background why uh the Miriam [Sp?] Harris[Sp?] Company put me on in Los Angeles.

Dodson: Can you describe some of those organs? I can remember some of those theatre organs that sound would sound like a snare drum, or a violin playing, or a calvary charge, or practically anything you wanted.

Mrs. Carlsted: Anything you wanted.

Mr. Carlsted: Well originally when we came out to the Valley, we were a pipe organ factory manufacturing primarily organs for churches. And then the movie tone came in, and uh we got into that game. It was more profitable than the church game. The peculiar thing, however, was that Wulitzer[Sp?] would send organs out here, we would send organs back to New York City. And so forth. We were, along with Wulitzer[Sp.?], the largest builders of theatre pipe organs. Kimbel, prior to the time I spoke of, had been doing church work primarily, the same as we did when I came out. But they got into the game also, and between the three of us why uh we got some real good theatre pipe organs.

Dodson: What was the name of the uh organ manufactured here?

Mr. Carlsted: At first it was the California Organ Company. When it left Los Angeles, it was the Miriam[Sp.?] Harris[Sp.?] Company. They had built an organ for the Saint Louis World Fair. They came out here under the name of

the Johnson or the California Organ Factory. And then after a short while, Mr. uh...What's the name of the banker?

Mrs. Carlsted: Whitset[Sp.?] and Whitley[Sp.].

Mr. Carlsted: Mr. Whitset[Sp.?] and Mr. Whitley[Sp.?]...

Mrs. Carlsted: They were promoting the ...[?].

Mr. Carlsted: ...uh financed things and uh we got going with the with the um Mr. Fleishacker[Sp.?] of San Francisco.

Dodson: Mhm.

Mr. Carlsted: And became the Robert Morton[Sp?] Pipe Organ Company. And that stayed with us until they closed in 1929 or 30.

Dodson: Was there any particular brand name used for the type of organ the Company made, like Kimbel or Wirrlitzer[sp?]?

Mr. Carlsted: Oh yes yes yes yes yes. It was a competitive field, there was no doubt about that.

Mrs. Carlsted: Well what was the name of your organ then, honey?

Mr. Carlsted: Well it was simply a Wirrlitzer[Sp?] pipe organ, or a Kimbel pipe organ, or a Robert Morton[Sp?] pipe organ...

Dodson: I see. That's what I meant was the name under which you manufactured your organs.

Mr. Carlsted: Oh yes yes, mhm.

Dodson: And Morton[Sp?] would have been Robert Morton[Sp?].

Mr. Carlsted: Robert Morton[Sp?] was the final the name on the pipe organs.

Dodson: I imagine those theatre organs were extremely intricate, were they not, with all those sort of sound effects that you got?

Mr. Carlsted: Well I had one of the nicest jobs in the industry, because everything went through my hands as the draftsman. And we had to uh develop these ideas and put them in blueprints, and from then on into uh production.

Mrs. Carlsted: I agree with ...?....

Mr. Carlsted: We had uh everything you could think of from serfsounding[Sp?] or glockenspiels, drums, all those things were a part of the work that I had.

Mrs. Carlsted: Don't forget to explain those large wooden pipes that you could put two people in.

Mr. Carlsted: We built some very large organs. One organ I require I remember we built for the Methodist church on Grande Avenue near Eighth that had uh a thirty-two foot diapason in it. And that meant that that pipe was thirty-two feet long, and it was large enough inside to put two people about my size inside of that one pipe. The lumber was about two and one quarter inches thick. The weight I couldn't tell you what that was. But that sound, or that when you put that sixteen foot tone on things can happen. When I was with the Kimbel

Company in Chicago, we did we built the thirty-two foot diapasons. And the shop foreman, one day in the winter time when all the windows were closed, uh he starts playing the organ and kicking the foot pedals where which were attached to the uh thirty-two foot diapasons. And bingo! Out went a lot of windows.

Dodson: Is that right?

Mr. Carlsted: It's a fact. There was sixteen vibrations per second to that note, but you could feel the pulsations ~~the~~ throughout the entire floor, the ...?... room floor, on that note. Then when you got up into the smaller notes, about the size of my finger or lead pencil, the vibrations would run into fifteen hundred vibrations per second. Quite a difference from the sixteen to the fifteen hundreds. Uh some of those notes were out of the realm of human hearing, but an animal like a dog would catch it and howl. Strange to say, but those things happen.

Mrs. Carlsted: Was it the high pitch?

Mr. Carlsted: We built an organ down at Mexico City, and they had trouble with that; Every now and then the people would come down and want their money back out of the...

Mrs. Carlsted: Balcony.

Mr. Carlsted: ...~~out of~~ the balcony. And they found out the reason was ~~that the balcony~~ shook.

Mrs. Carlsted: It was vibrations.

Mr. Carlsted: It was a certain note of those big pipes, was timed right ~~in~~ with the structure of the of the building, and started the shaking. The same thing happened to

a job...

Mrs. Carlsted: Sounds impossible, but ...?....

Mr. Carlsted: ... job on Grande Avenue at Eighth. We had trouble with that. And we found that the only we could do was take the notes that were causing that, and tune them a half a note off pitch. It was hardly discernible, but uh it eliminated our trouble. But we had to send a man down specifically to find out about it.

Dodson: You know this reminds me of a story I heard about the great Tenor[Sp?] Crusoe[Sp?], and I've always wondered whether it was true. It said that he could fill a glass water, hold it up to his lips, and begin to sing.

Mr. Carlsted: Mhm.

Dodson: And as soon as he hit ^{just} exactly the right note that glass would collapse in his hand. Do you think that's possible?

Mr. Carlsted: I think so.

Mrs. Carsted: I think I saw that on stage. I think I did.

Dodson: He'd set up the vibration point in that glass when he the right note, and the glass would collapse.

Mr. Carlsted: Well as I told you that that low note and the thirty-two foot was just, you could feel the pulsations in the in the plant on that note. Now when you get up in the higher trebles, it was so high that uh the human ear could hardly hear it.

Dodson: I guess that's the principle of some of those dog whistles: Where you blow and the human ear hears nothing, but the dog can hear it.

Mr. Carlsted: Same theory.

Dodson: Can you tell us how they got some of these sound effects, like uh a snare drum beating and that sort of thing? They didn't depend on pipes, did it?

Mr. Carlsted: No, no we had the snare drums, and then we had a system of pneumatics operating with a beater on the pneumatic. And of course, with all electric controls by breakers, and they just they been sitting like that. Some with the xylophone, a harp, marimba, uh glockenspiel, and all of these uh orchestrations. They're all handled the same way. Pneumatics, they were beating on them. And on the pipe organ itself, uh the pipe would sit over a hole, underneath that hole was a valve. Had air inside of the pouch, and when that pouch was deflated the air went up into the pipe and spoke. About the year 1926 I got a patent on a new type of chest. Instead of having the wind box as was customary, underneath the pipes, I put it up on top in between the row of pipes. And we eliminated about seven burrowing operations per note. For that I got uh one dollar from the Robert Morton Company, and \$100 a month raise. Because we went into production right away.

Mrs. Carlsted: Did you retain the patent for that?

Mr. Carlsted: The patent is good for fourteen years, and after that length of time...

Mrs. Carlsted: It runs out.

Mr. Carlsted: ...why uh anybody can do it.

Dodson: It was in the public domain after that.

Mr. Carlsted: Yes.

Dodson: Are there many pipe organs being made now of that type, or are they all practically electronic now?

Mr. Carlsted: Well, those of us who were in the pipe organ industry scoffed at uh these electric organs: Huh, it just can't be done. It uh you can't make anything sound like a pipe organ. But they've done a wonderful job. I was in a church in Van Nuys here recently where the volume and everything was so intense, that I said to Ruth, "I'm going up to talk to the organist and find out what kind of an organ pipe organ this is." Which I did. She kind of smiled. She said, "Well you know this is not a wind pipe organ. It's an electric pipe organ." And I said, "You amaze me. Is that a fact?" And it was. So they've done wonderful things. Especially for the small churches. You can buy one of those little units, oh its just as big as...

Mrs. Carlsted: I have one. I haven't got it here, but I have one.

Mr. Carlsted: ...uh just the size of a piano or less in space to take up. And uh with all the mechanism inside of that thing. Instead of having a room say oh ten by fifteen by eight, ten feet high, they got very good imitations that was in that pipe organ wind pipe organ.

Dodson: Are Kimbel[Sp?] still making the wind type?

Mr. Carlsted: No, Kimbel[Sp?] quit the piano game as well as the pipe organ game about uh 25 or 30 years ago.

Mrs. Carlsted: Are you sure?

Dodson: I see. I usually associated the word "Whirlitzer"[Sp.] with the theatre organ.

Mr. Carlsted: That's right.

Dodson: Are they still making any, or they is the theatre organ just something that's gone now?

Mr. Carlsted: They're still making them. They're about the only uh builder building theatre pipe organs, excepting for some smaller outfit somewhere in Illinois. I don't recall the name of it. ...?... but Whirlitzer[Sp] is outstanding in in the theatre game.

Dodson: I see. Uh you feel uh what really ruined the business here in Van Nuys was excessive competition? That it went out of business before the motion pictures adopted sound, didn't it? I'm not sure what the when the first sound pictures appeared. Of course that uh hurt the theatre organ business.

Mr. Carlsted: I can't recall either.

Boyer: The Depression didn't cause it, did it?

Mr. Carlsted: The which?

Boyer: The Depression.

Mr. Carlsted: Well.

Boyer: It was at the same time.

Mr. Carlsted: The Depression came out of course, and uh it stopped some. But uh there are pipe organ Companies, now you take Casavant[Sp?] in Canada. They're building large pipe organs \$100,000 jobs or larger. Uh and uh there was another factory in uh the States building pipe organs. I can't recall the name of it at the present time.

Dodson: Was it 1929 that the Morton Company ceased to making organs here.

Mr. Carlsted: Yes, we uh sent the last pipe organ that I worked on I worked on. I went down and helped erect that. That that was in the Balboa Theatre in San Diego. That was in uh 29, 1929. It was the last pipe organ they built.

Dodson: Where exactly was the organ factory located, Mr. Carlsted?

Mr. Carlsted: Right down at the uh railroad tracks, Oxnard Street and Van Nuys Boulevard.

Dodson: Oxnard and Van Nuys?

Mr. Carlsted: Mhm.

Dodson: I see.

Mr. Carlsted: And uh...

Mrs. Carlsted: Too bad we uh...

Mr. Carlsted: ...during the early days when they didn't have any flood control in Van Nuys, we had a gang of men out all the time all night long. Just banking[?] up around the doors

of the organ factory to keep keep the water out.

Dodson: I guess you were uh closed though before that big flood came. Wasn't there one about 1933? I forgot the exact year. No, I guess it was a little later.

Boyer: 37 I think.

Dodson: Thirty-seven, thirty-eight, somewhere in there.

Mr. Carlsted: Well, by that time they had flood control then.

Dodson: Mhm.

Mr. Carlsted: But see they put in huge pipes right right down Van Nuys Boulevard, and that eliminated the flow down on top of Van Nuys Boulevard.

Dodson: Mhm.

Mrs. Carlsted: Near the corner of Tyrone, and the canyon known named Tyrone River, because all the mountain water coming into the Valley seemed to come down that street.

Mr. Dodson: That would be an exceptionally bad location for flooding, wouldn't it have been?

Mrs. Carlsted: Yes, it was. It was right in town though. We were just two blocks down from the main street of town on Silvin[Sp?] Street.

Mr. Carlsted: Well every street uh that water down from up abou up abou up above uh Reseda and that area, it would go down Kester Avenue and down Van Nuys Boulevard, come down uh...

Mrs. Carlsted: No.

Mr. Carlsted: ...uh Tyrone, go down uh.

Mrs. Carlsted: Well of course it took half at least resistance, I suppose. You know it leaked ...?.... It would, anything opened up...

Dodson: Mhm.

Mrs. Carlsted: ...the street.

Mr. Carlsted: Some of these things over the years, why uh I forget these things.

Mrs. Carlsted: You used to see the cars that would try to go through the river, I'll say river, through the Tyrone on Silvin[Sp?] Street that crawls down Silvin[Sp?]. Houses were ...?... to be built all around, but you know. And they'd come from town maybe that's two blocks up on Van Nuys Boulevard. And they'd have to get through, and they'd get stuck and be swung around with the forces of water. It was a regular river...

Dodson: Uh was your home ever damaged with water going through it?

Mrs. Carlsted: No, it never did. It never, we were built on a higher foundation I guess. It never bothered us, only to get in and out of the driveway.

Mr. Carlsted: Well it never went over the over the curb down there. It went down the main drag which was Tyrone.

Mrs. Carlsted: But we saw lots of cars have trouble coming through. They'd try to get through and would come up you know so high and block as they came through. The force was so fast and strong in the rainy season. We, it seems to me that ...?... a lot more rain then than we do now. Oh my voice is going to sound terrible.

Boyer: Ha ha ha ha ha.

Dodson: I think uh the rain fall does go in cycles to some degree.

Mrs. Carlsted: Yes, it does.

Dodson: So it's quite possible you did.

Mrs. Carlsted: Yes, exactly. And the summers were hotter. Of course there was more bare land, and not so much growth. And I suppose that affects the heat too. But oh we used to have some hot summers.

Dodson: You were also telling us about the uh wind that uh used to go through the Valley when you first came. Can you tell us a little about that, so we can put it on our tape?

Mr. Carlsted: Well I remember and never will forget uh the sandstorm brought on by these winds. I would leave my drafting table at noontime, go home for lunch, and come back and hardly able to find the outline of my drawing paper.

Mrs. Carlsted: This is in half an hour an hour's time.

Dodson: Is that right?

Mr. Carlsted: And in addition to that tumbleweeds about three or four feet in diameter would go blowing down the boulevard on the other side of the street. Oh what a place it was to bring a young wife out to. She'd come from Los Angeles, and I didn't seem to care for it. It didn't seem to mind to me. All of this was a brand new experience, coming from Chicago.

Dodson: Uh your wife uh wasn't born in Chicago then.

Mrs. Carlsted: Yes...

Mr. Carlsted: Yes she was.

Mrs. Carlsted: My husband. Don't remember, I left as a very young baby child, and went to Colorado, Denver, Colorado.

Dodson: Right. I've lived there myself. I'm from Colorado.

Mrs. Carlsted: Well are you really.

Dodson: Mhm. Although my home is Colorado Springs really.

Mrs. Carlsted: Yes, ^{oh} that's a beautiful ...I think, I love Colorado, and it's a beautiful spot, isn't it? Colorado Springs?

Dodson: Yeah, except it's a little too chili.

Mrs. Carlsted: Yes.

Dodson: Although just now it's warm compared to some areas a little further east.

Mrs. Carlsted: Yes, that's true. Cold winters we had there, regular Eastern winters I guess you'd call. Only it was kind

of half way west.

Dodson: Yes, that would be the really the first of the Western states...

Mrs. Carlsted: That's right.

Dodson: ...of the Rocky Mountains go through there. Did these winds blow fairly constantly, or was that true only during the Santa Anna winds?

Mrs. Carlsted: No, they came in spells, not all the time.

Mr. Carlsted: Not constant no.

Mrs. Carlsted: When they came, they came in earnest.

Dodson: Do you remember what kind of agriculture was being carried on in the valley when you first came?

Mr. Carlsted: Primarily uh sugar beets, and then they went into planting apricots trees. And the area between North Hollywood and uh close up to Canoga Park was very well loaded with uh apricot trees. But uh I remember um six horse teams dragging uh great big wagons full of sugar beets to be loaded down to the uh railroad down there in the organ factory.

Dodson: You didn't do any farming at any time yourself.

Mr. Carlsted: No.

Mrs. Carlsted: Just a little garden, home garden.

Mr. Carlsted: I do remember huhu I enjoyed farming and I'd be out working in the uh the empty lot next door to me. Oh I'd be out there at ten eleven o'clock at night. And one year I planted peanuts-thought we'd have some peanuts. Well.

Dodson: How did they do here in the Valley?

Mr. Carlsted: Peanuts? Well Carter has done an awful lot better than I did, because I didn't get a peanut out of my whole crop.

Mrs. Carlsted: Reason being is before the gophers got them.

Mr. Carlsted: The reason was the reason was. No not gophers. The reason was I had uh I had uh.

Mrs. Carlsted: Anybody else want water? I'll go get it.

Boyer: Oh, no thank you.

Mr. Carlsted: I had ducks.

Dodson: Oh thank you, I.

Mr. Carlsted: And those ducks travelled around, and they found my peanut patch. And they just dug right under there and got all of them.

Mrs. Carlsted: It was so cute to see them moving with their bills.

Mr. Carlsted: And then there was a watermelon patch across the street, uh that was wide open to them. Sometimes I'd walk them over, the man that had it didn't seem to mind, uh I'd walk them across the street and they'd fill up until the watermelon was just hanging out of their their mouths and their bills.

Mrs. Carlsted: They loved watermelon, and ...?... ..

Mr. Carlsted: Watermelon, watermelon, watermelon.

Mrs. Carlsted: ...and they'd waddle back. I mean just a regular trail of them.

Mr. Carlsted: And anyways the experience for a person from the city, like Chicago, to come out to.

Mrs. Carlsted: We didn't fence them in at that time, and they'd follow across the street and waddle along after him. So he was known as Paul and his trail of ducks.

Dodson: Well sometimes I think a duck has a lot of personality.

Mrs. Carlsted: They do. They're funny, those creatures.

Mr. Carlsted: Let me tell you something about turkeys. I decided to raise turkeys one year. And uh I found that I killed about $\frac{1}{2}$ of my turkeys. They're the most stupid creatures I have ever seen.

Dodson: That's what I've heard.

Mr. Carlsted: I'd backed out of the oh I'd backed out of the garage, and "wrrrrrick" I'd hear a squack and there'd be another dead young turkey, you know.

Mrs. Carlsted: Oh, it made us feel bad, because we looked forward to having them , you know.

Mr. Carlsted: But uh I raised capricorn, and uh alfalfa , and fed them , got them up to good size. Sold one that weighed twenty-five pounds, remember, to the the uh...

Mrs. Carlsted: The it was the Sport Club out on...

Mr. Carlsted: On Ventura Boulevard.

Mrs. Carlsted: ...Ventura Boulevard, almost down the North Hollywood area.

Mr. Carlsted: The killer man down there says, "What you feeding these turkeys boy?". And I says, "Corn, mash, and alfalfa." "Sure done a good job, you did."

Mrs. Carlsted: I think it weighed twenty pounds or something.

Mr. Carlsted: Twenty-five.

Mrs. Carlsted: Twenty-five pounds.

Boyer: Yeah, that's a big one.

Dodson: Mhm.

Mrs. Carlsted: We had a lot of fun in those growing days, growing pains with the growing times and all. It was fun.

Mr. Carlsted: But uh I enjoyed coming from the city and getting into the rural life quite a bit. And I remember I went in for potatoes one year, and uh and getting very good prices for them. So all of a sudden I decided I'd sell and get what I could out of them. And the drug-gist uptown and the doctor they'd kind of been watching my potatoe patch to see what would happen. And finally I sold for let us say 75¢ a sack. Then they went up to about a dollar, then a dollar and a quarter, why I let go. And uh they sure aroused me even at that, because they went higher than that lately, and

I'd I'd sold at at a low premium.

Dodson: Did a sack contain a hundred pounds?

Mr. Carlsted: A hundred pounds.

Dodson: The price of potatoes has changed drastically since that day.

Mr. Carlsted: ohhh! I'm told my wife ...

The tape was flipped over at this point, and a few words were lost!

Dodson: ...potatoes there and tomatoes.

Mr. Carlsted: Oh yes, potatoe price was not to high, and I was hanging on trying to get a better price. So I finally sold, but uh I just made that one mistake. After that things went up. Went as high as a dollar and a quarter a sack. That was for one hundred pounds.

Mrs. Carlsted: Just what people are doing today with real estate and their homes.

Dodson: Mhm.

Mrs. Carlsted: They sell one day, and maybe realize ^{that} in a month from there that time or something their home is worth thousands more.

Dodson: Yes, but of course then if they buy another home, They've lost it all on the purchase.

Mrs. Carlsted: Yes.

Dodson: They have'nt really made a thing...

Mrs. Carlsted: Yes, that's true.

Dodson: ...when it comes right down to it.

Mrs. Carlsted: Usually, but it has been going up in such a fast rate but for quite a little while.

Dodson: Mhm. And of course if you don't buy another home, then you hold the government to capital gains tax.

Mrs. Carlsted: That's true too.

Dodson: So you can't win either way.

Mrs. Carlsted: No, you can't.

Mr. Carlsted: Unless you're our age, we're about say 87, and uh we get a little break on it.

Dodson: I see. That helps then.

Mr. Carlsted: That helps, I think. I found out they just sold our place.

Dodson: Well with most people I doubt that there would be much real gain, with the inflation and the capital gains tax, or having to use the money to buy another house somewhere else. They'd be lucky if they even broke even. I think in many cases.

Mr. Carlsted: ...?... change so rapidly. Our son sold his place .

It had six rooms...

Mrs. Carlsted: Granada Hills. Beautiful.

Mr. Carlsted: ...a swimming pool, a beautiful home. He bought it for I think twenty thousand, sold it for thirty-six. And went up to Boise, Idaho, came back three years later, and inquired about the price of the house. It was sixty-one thousand.

Dodson: Mhm. Yes, I think that's probably typical of the way real estate values have gone here in the Valley.

Mrs. Carlsted: I wonder if it's the value only, or is it California only, or...

Dodson: No, I think it's probably the whole nation, although theres some variation. I read an article in the paper recently that uh houses in Orange County now are probably the most expensive in the state.

Mr. Carlsted: Mhm.

Mrs. Carlsted: Oooh.

Dodson: Uh probably because Orange County is growing so rapidly.

Mrs. Dodson: Yes.

Mr. Dodson: Mhm.

Dodson: But the uh value for the state as a whole has increased tremendously. I've forgotten the exact figures on the average house. Do you by any chance remember what you paid for your first house that you bought here in the Valley, and uh the size of the house that you could describe it to us?

Mr. Carlsted: Well, my wife's mother had come out one day, and bought a hou and bought a lot. She paid \$500 for it.

Mrs. Carlsted: Paid out cash for it.

Mr. Carlsted: She came home and told her two daughters about it. And they said, "Why mom, your'e silly, what's the idea of going out there and buying a lot for\$500 that you need badly?".

Mrs. Carlsted: Well, we thought she'd been taken, an elderly lady going out alone on the street corner.

Mr. Carlsted: Well, it so happened that uh she was stuck with the deal, and hung on. And then in uh 1913 the organ factory moved out and Van Nuys had the first industry in the Valley. Then one day uh they decided to uh show that industry to the people in the Valley. And they put they got organists to come out and play all day. I took tours around the factory all day to show them what we were doing. And uh there uh about five o'clock I said to the man who was running the plant, Johnson, I said, "Well Jay, I'm going home, it's five o'clock.". He said, "No you're not. See these two redheads coming up the line." He said, "You're gonna take them through there." I said, "Oh no." And I said, "How are you ladies?". About that time they'd hit the door.

Mrs. Carlsted: Oh he was so sweet.

Mr. Carlsted: "Uh Mr. Carlsted would be very glad to show you the organ factory". I think they were the last ones to go through the plant. I'd been taking people around all

day long. Well after we were through with the tour and closed the front door and everybody was out, I said to this young lady out on the side, "How about staying out here for the barbecue and dance?" "Oh," she says, "I've got my sister and my mother with me." "Oh," I said, "I'll take care of that." I said, "I'll see if I can get a nice seat over here at the restaurant." There was one restaurant in town. "And then we'll put them on the street car and I'll take you home."

Dodson: Men were pretty tricky then, weren't they?

Mr. Carlsted: But I had forgotten that the last car left at uh about eight thirty or nine in the evening.

Boyer: Mhm.

Mr. Carlsted: The dance lasted until about midnight. The question was what to do. I found out that I could sneak a seat or two, two for both of us, uh along with the orchestra that had come out.

Mrs. Carlsted: They ...?... us special ...?... ...?... ...

Mr. Carlsted: And they left at midnight. So that is how I got my wife back home. And uh...

Boyer: How'd you get back.

Mr. Carlsted: Well, we walked all the way from the from the Fifth Street Station up to Sixteenth and uh...

Mrs. Carlsted: Toberman[Sp?].

Mr. Carlsted: ...Toberman[Sp?]. Quite alike. Oh they rolled the sidewalks up at nine o'clock and ...?... at that time.

Mrs. Carlsted: ...?... nothing after that time.

Mr. Carlsted: But uh I'd taken uh Ruth and her sister through the factory, and uh that wasn't the last meeting I had with her. One month later we were engaged.

Mrs. Carlsted: Oh not in a month, was it?

Mr. Carlsted: One month.

Mrs. Carlsted: Oh you were a fast worker.

Mr. Carlsted: Four months from the time that I had met her we were we were married. And we've been married now for ...?... sixty-three years.

Dodson: Mhm.

Boyer: That's great.

Dodson: Well, you seem to have been right the first time then.

Boyer: Yeah.

Mrs. Carlsted: Well it was so funny the way we met. I had other boyfriends. I was at the age where sixteen seventeen you know going out with boys and all. And uh I had several friends on the string and but I.

Mr. Carlsted: She keeps letting me know that every now and then.

Mrs. Carlsted: But it was so funny that I should come out. And I didn't want to come, I had a tennis game on that afternoon. I played tennis, and uh I loved tennis. And I was working for the Santa Fe at the time, and we just had half a day Saturday.

Boyer: Mhm.

Mrs. Carlsted: So I had a game planned. And so when mother wanted me to come out I remember ...?.... I said, "Oh mother I've gotⁿ tennis game." Oh she looked so cross ...?.... ...?.... And I said uh she said, "Oh Liz, I want you to see that little lot I bought." "But mother, you paid \$500 cash for it." "Yes, I did". I had some cousins that were awfully good to us. And mother being a widow, so they saw to it that mother never ~~wanted~~. So she had money of her own, she felt very independent.

Boyer: Coming out here ...?....

Mrs. Carlsted: She could use you know. So she bought that lot, and She said, "Now you see Ruth that's going to be a good thing. I have a feeling that it's going to be all right. Don't you worry." And it sure was. I met my husband to be.

Dodson: Of course I don't think she had that in mind when she bought the lot.

Mrs. Carlsted: No she didn't. I didn't either ...?... ...?.... I went out under protest. I really didn't want to go. And that's the funny side of fate to me. Sometimes things are to happen, I think, that you don't have any control about.

Mr. Carlsted: But we took the lot over from grandma and built a little house of about four rooms slightly larger than all of this. And from then on we stayed in Van Nuys.

Dodson: How much would it have cost to uh build a four room house at that time?

Mr. Carlsted: Well you won't believe this but I have I have the evidence if its necessary to show it. Uh there were no building restrictions in that at that time. And uh I had just money enough to pay for the lumber and uh. Here's the the thing I wanted you to remember: ~~the~~ contractor put up this little house as probably...

Mrs. Carlsted: It wasn't a shack either. It was a neat little house.

Mr. Carlsted: ...uh it was probably 14 x 25. They didn't have to put in the foundations other than just a row of bricks in those days. Which he did. But he built that house, excepting for roofing the roof, for \$75.

Boyer: Oh my.

Dodson: That was almost unbelievable.

Mr. Carlsted: That was in the \$2 a day era, and you were making just about \$2 a day. And in addition to that I had to pay for for the roofing.

Boyer: Mhm.

Mr. Carlsted: And uh he hung all the doors and all the windows, did all the outside work, and I finished uh building in uh buffets and writing desk and things of that nature. But he hung all the doors, hung all the windows, and everything for \$75.

Dodson: But you had had to buy your lumber beyond that.

Mr. Carlsted: Of course.

Dodson: Do you have any idea how much the lumber would have come to how much that would have added to the cost of the house?

Mr. Carlsted: I don't believe I kept a record of that, but uh...

Mrs. Carlsted: He was so wonderful at keeping records.

Mr. Carlsted: ...it couldn't have been very much, because I was only getting \$2 a day too.

Dodson: Mhm.

Mr. Carlsted: Uh the first raise by the way at that time I got that

from this company. It was 1¢ an hour.

Dodson: Now what year would this have been?

Mr. Carlsted: This was 1913 or 14.

Dodson: Mhm.

Mr. Carlsted: Possibly 1914. One cent an hour raise.. I taught mechanical drawing and woodshop at Canoga High for about twenty-four years. And uh many times during that time boys would leave, and they'd come in to see me. And I'd ask them how they were doing, and they'd say, "I'm doing real fine making \$3.75 \$4.50 a day." "Oh", I said, "your'e doing all right. You know what I got when I was your age?" "No." "Two dollars a day." "Oh." "And do you know what raise I got the first raise? One cent an hour." "Uh Mr. Carlsted, Don't give us that baloney. It can't be done and that's a fact." It is hard to believe isn't it.

Dodson: Mmm. And you didn't feel insulted at getting the one cent an hour raise?

Mr. Carlsted: I took it I that was 10¢ a day mind you.

Dodson: Uh can you tell us exactly what 10¢ might have bought in those days?

Mr. Carlsted: Well you could go up to the grocery store...

Mrs. Carlsted: A bunch of carrots.

Mr. Carlsted: ...and you could get about four bunches of carrots for a dime.

Mrs. Carlsted: Four?

Mr. Carlsted: And I don't mean only three or four in a bunch. I mean about a dozen in a bunch.

Mrs. Carlsted: Do you mean four bunches? I don't remember that.

Mr. Carlsted: Four bunches of carrots.

Mrs. Carlsted: For a dime?

Mr. Carlsted: Yeah.

Mrs. Carlsted: I thought it was cheap enough at 10¢ a bunch.

Mr. Carlsted: No. You know you know what we paid for uh for uh uh beef at that time?

Mrs. Carlsted: Don't remember.

Mr. Carlsted: 25¢ a pound. You try to get a seven boned roast today for 25¢ a pound. I mean a real seven bone, not the stuff they call seven boned. Times have changed.

Mrs. Carlsted: I guess everything's gone up of course.

Mr. Carlsted: Bread was 5¢ a loaf. Milk I think was 5¢ a quart.

Mrs. Carlsted: I think delivered at the house too.

Dodson: Well would you say that you were better or worse off in terms of your purchasing power than what you would have been say thirty or forty years later?

Mr. Carlsted: Oh no no. Uh the increase in costs uh followed along in a better degree after in later years and the years I've spoken of. And uh there's no doubt that what uh people today are far better off than than they were at that time.

Mrs. Carlsted: Oh yes. They lived better.

Dodson: Even though prices have gone up, their wages have gone up more so they can actually live better.

Mr. Carlsted: We all scream and holler about the high cost of living and income taxes and all that stuff. But uh we're better off. I remember the first Ford I bought. I'd had it just one year. Mr. Huttiger[Sp?]...

Mrs. Carlsted: He had the ...?.... agency. First Ford agency.

Mr. Carlsted: ...had the agency out there in Van Nuys. I happened to meet him on the street one night. And he says, "Carlsted." He says, "You want to sell that Ford to me?" And I said, "No, I've got a good Ford. Why should I sell it?" "Well", he says, "I'll make you a deal you can't afford to turn down." "Ah" I said, "Lets hear it." Now by this time I'd worn out most of the rubber. Rubber didn't last back in 1914 15 like it does today. And uh most of the rubber was gone and everything. And I said, "Well uh what's the deal, Huffiger[Sp?] ?" "Well" He says, "I'll tell you. I'll give you a new car and you give me \$150." I said, "You got a deal." He kind of blinked. He said, "Maybe I talked to fast." "Well", I said, "Is it a deal or isn't it?" "Yes", he said, "It's a deal." I got my new car for \$150.

Dodson: Mmm.

Mrs. Carlsted: A new car for \$150.

Mr. Carlsted: Now that was a good deal.

Dodson: Yeah. Do you remember what gasoline would have cost per gallon in 1914?

Mr. Carlsted: Oh about uh 12 to 14 15¢. And that became uh a little bit hard to buy when you're getting \$2 a day sometimes. So uh driving a Ford, why we made up some kind of a contraption that had a valve in it. And we mixed gasoline and kerosine. And believe it or not it worked. We ran on half gasoline and half kerosine. And I don't think gasoline at that time was over 14¢ a gallon.

Dodson: Mmm.

Boyer: Mmm.

Mr. Carlsted: And now it's 64¢ a gallon.

Boyer: ...?...

Dodson: I'm not sure though when it comes right down to it that gasoline has increased in the same proportion in price as many other things.

Mr. Carlsted: Mmm. ...?.... ...?.... ...?.... I don't think it has.

Dodson: I think that's probably true, because until fairly recently gasoline could be bought at maybe 30 or 40 cents a gallon.

Mr. Carlsted: Why doesn't a couple of years back I used to go up to our son's place in uh San Jose. Uh he's an engineer over at Lockheed[Sp?]. And uh they were selling gas there for 35¢ a gallon. I says, "Man", I says, "you've got a good deal up here. We have to pay 39 down at Van Nuys." So things ...?... ..?

Dodson: One thing that uh has occurred to me as we were talking, you were talking about your courtship. I I was wondering how dating practices might have differed then than they are now. Were you under stricter rules on who you could go out with and when you had to get in at night and so on?

Mr. Carlsted: Oh yes.

Mrs. Carlsted: Oh yes.

Dodson: Could you tell us a little about that?

Mrs. Carlsted: Well the night I met him I guess almost killed my mother. I said to him, "I wish I could clear up my voice. But I said to him, "Oh Paul", I said, "we uh what will we do when the dance is over?" And uh uh it was no it was twelve o'clock and we were still playing a little and dancing. And uh I said uh even before that I think when you thought of what I thought of staying over with you, "I've got to get home and my mother and sister, mother will be worried to death." So he said uh, "Well uh what telephone do you have?" And I said, "Oh I think it was the Sunset Telephone Company." At the time that was in Los Angeles, and a different telephone company out here. And they not did not interchange. So I said, "Well you must get me to a phone. I got to call mother." He said, "Well this is a

different company, and my dear you can't." Huh, then I was feeling very bad, because I never did want to worry my mother. I loved her dearly. So I was very upset over that. So he went to the orchestra leader, and got got us on the car coming home. And then we had to walk home from the station. You remember where the uh no you're not really familiar with that not coming from California. But the main station where cars stopped was at Fifteenth and Hill. Fifth and Hill, wasn't it?

Mr. Carlsted: Fifth and Hill.

Mrs. Carlsted: Fifth and Hill.

Mr. Carlsted: Mhm.

Mrs. Carlsted: And we had to walk from Fifth and Hill...

Mr. Carlsted: Sixteenth and Toberman[Sp?].

Mrs. Carlsted: ...to Sixteenth and Toberman[Sp?].

Boyer: That's a long way.

Mr. Carlsted: Uh huh.

Mrs. Carlsted: Toberman[Sp?] at that time was the first lovely wide street.

Boyer: Uh huh.

Mrs. Carlsted: Unusually wide.

Dodson: Mhm.

Mrs. Carlsted: Picturesque old homes, beautiful old homes. And my mother rented one. And uh used to board a few teachers .

That helped on the finances and our gains, since there was no man in the family. You know my mother was a widow. So that was that. But uh yes dating was very very strict. Mother was very worried when I came to the door. And Paul put his head in and apologized to her. She came to the door when she heard me. "Oh ...?... is that you?" And I said, "Yes mother." And He said um he apologized for being so late. That uh he didn't realize that you know that the um that we couldn't get the last car home. And we were having such a good time overlooked the twelve o'clock hour.

Dodson: Was there a usual curfew that you had to be back at a certain hour.

Mrs. Carlsted: No, not exactly that. But by twelve, twelve was considered a late date if you stayed out till twelve.

Dodson: Mhm.

Mrs. Carlsted: One was really quite late and it wasn't very often done.

Dodson: Mhm.

Mr. Carlsted: Our sixty-first wedding anniversary we uh decided to uh go, after being asked by some Baptist church friends uh if we'd care to go over, to Catalina island. And I said uh, "Could be, uh when is it?" He said, "August the eighteenth." That rang a bell in my head. Uh we uh running five buses bus loads out and uh...

Mrs. Carlsted: That was the Baptist church.

Mr. Carlsted: ...he said, "I'll try to get you tickets."

Mrs. Carlsted: The same Baptist church.

Mr. Carlsted: And just a day before they were to go why he was able to get tickets, because two elderly men...

Mrs. Carlsted: Decided not to go and left two tickets.

Mr. Carlsted: ...older than I was decided uh not to go and we got their tickets. And uh we walked around on the boat and enjoyed it, and then we went down to watch the uh...

Mrs. Carlsted: Dances.

Mr. Carlsted: ...dancing and hear the music. And all a sudden the ra ta ta ta tat quieted the...

Mrs. Carlsted: Somebody went and twisted something...

Mr. Carlsted: ...musicians.

Mrs. Carlsted: ...in his ear I guess ...?... ...?... ...?... ..

Mr. Carlsted: And uh he said uh, "We have a young couple here with us today celebrating their sixty-first wedding anniversary. Mr. Carlsted, Mrs. Carlsted stand up. Let's give them a hand." Which they did. And uh he was a young man about twenty-five years of age and uh...

Mrs. Carlsted: Oh he said he'd play a number for us. In the meantime ...?... he'd play a number. And then after that you went up to thank him for the number. And you talked to him.

Mr. Carlsted: So he said, "How in the world did you get out here in uh 1914?" Well he couldn't foresee that or think of it being twenty-five years old. He said, "Did you walk, did you fly, or how did you get out here?" Well I said, "We came out the same way that we're on this boat now. They had what they'd call The Great White Steamer, which was not as elaborate as this one. But it was running ...?.... ...?... he said, "I didn't know that." But we enjoyed our sixty-first wedding anniversary. Because uh... We had been there once or twice prior to that, but uh it was a new experience.

Boyer: You mean you could go out to Catalina in 1914?

Mrs. Carlsted: Yes.

Mr. Carlsted: That's where we spent our honeymoon.

Mrs. Carlsted: That was our honeymoon.

Boyer: That was your honeymoon?

Mrs. Carlsted: After we were married we...

Mr. Carlsted: They had what they called Tent City in those days...

Mrs. Carlsted: And when we went out we had to rush to make the boat.

Mr. Carlsted: Anybody making getting \$2 a day that's all they could afford. But uh we enjoyed it in Tent City which is gone now. Tent City is or I mean Catalina Island is quite different from what was in 1914.

Mrs. Carlsted: It's in the same cute place it was. I'ts you know grown up like everything else.

Dodson: Mhm.

Boyer: Mhm.

Mrs. Carlsted: But it was fun to go on that day, and it came up so suddenly we enjoyed it.

Dodson: Was that before Wrigley[Sp?] aquired uh...

Mrs. Carlsted: Yes.

Dodson: ...possession of the island?

Mrs. Carlsted: When we first went over yes yes. Later he aquired the island.

Dodson: Mhm. The town of Babylon I suppose was in existence then.

Mrs. Carlsted: Yes, that was the only town. I I don't know if it's the only town yet. We didn't...

Dodson: I think it is, yes.

Mrs. Carlsted: It was only a day's trip, so we didn't get around too much around the island on this trip we told you about to see. But it had so changed in the front, you know the street the front street and all that it uh didn't seem like Catalina to us really. It uh... But as he said there was that Tent City. And that's where all we married couples would come and stay. Then there

was a little restaurant. You could get your breakfast meals, you couldn't cook in the tent.

Dodson: Mhm.

Mrs. Carlsted: It was just for sleeping. But it was fun the young people.

Dodson: I can imagine. Did you know any of the uh pioneers when you came out here, some of the men who were famous in the settlement of the Valley, like Whitsett or Whitley[Sp?]?

Mr. Carlsted: Oh yes, yes. We knew Whitsett, because he was interested in the Pipe Organ Factory.

Mrs. Carlsted: Yes.

Mr. Carlsted: And uh...

Mrs. Carlsted: He practically donated the land, did he not for them for them?

Mr. Carlsted: ...we knew him and uh before he had donated in the way of building up the town and everything.

Dodson: Can you uh describe him in any way? What sort of impression did he make Mr. Whitsett?

Mr. Carlsted: Well, I always always thought he was a very honest person...

Mrs. Carlstead: It was stupid.

Mr. Carlsted: ...in his business dealings.

Mrs. Carlsted: Sorry.

Mr. Carlsted: And uh he was a nice man to talk to.

Dodson: Good.

Mr. Carlsted: We had a chance here is a strange thing. He had an orange grove right on Van Nuys Boulevard where his home was. We had put a pipe organ in there. I'd made all the plan for it and everything. And in later years where the uh uh there's a bank on that corner. Now right across the street from where his home and orange grove was was for sale...

Mrs. Carlsted: Oh yes, a lovely house on Van Nuys Boulevard down south of uh Sylb...?.... Street.

Mr. Carlsted: ...and uh a realator offered uh offered that to me for I think uh about \$5000. Well \$5000, was that a little bit of thinking before you plunged into a thing like that. But a Ruth says, "Oh you're silly now." And said, "You go ahead and buy that." So I went down to the factory and I talked over the deal with the superintendent. He says, "Forget it Paul." He says, "You haven't got any money." He says, "You can't put up a shanty uh on uh on Van Nuys Boulevard, and expect he's gonna let it stay there. He'll see that uh it doesn't." So uh he said, "If I were you I'd get my money back." So I went to the realtor. I said, "Charley, Charley ...?....." I said, "I don't think I want that lot...

Mrs. Carlsted: ...?.... ...?.... ...?.... so mad at him. He ...?.. bought that lot and ...?.... said, "He shouldn't do it."

Mr. Carlsted: ...let me have my uh \$50 back, will you? That was a \$50 deposit." He says, "You're about the third or fourth fellow that's come and paid a deposit and then backed down." He says, "No." "Oh", I says, "come on now let me have \$25 of that 50, won't you?" "All right here you are." So he gave that back to me. Now this was about the time of the First World War. And uh shortly after that Depression, which was severe you know and eveverything, why that lot sold for I think \$22000. And what it's worth now, of course the bank ...?... it now, would be way up. But you see how things changed even in that time.

Dodson: Mhm.

Boyer: Mhm.

Mr. Carlsted: And a young fellow from Chicago couldn't see how things were going to grow and grow. Although I always did always say to everybody, I said, "Van Nuys", I said, "is going to be the logical city of expansion in the San Fernando Valley. It's bound to happen one day." It did.

Dodson: Mhm.

Mrs. Carlsted: It was really kind of a ...?...

Dodson: Yes, of course at that time the Valley had a number of other independent towns that ...?... Owens Mountain, do you remember that?

Mrs. Carlsted: Oh yes oh yes yes. And North Hollywood and uh ...

Mr. Carlsted: I taught school over at Canoga there and it was Owens Valley[Sp?].

Dodson: ~~Mr. Dodson:~~ I see.

Mr. Carlsted: Uh and uh for about 24 years. But they had roses all the way fro from North Hollywood...

Mrs. Carlsted: North Hollywood, yes I'm glad you brought that in.

Mr. Carlsted: ...all the way up to Canoga Park...

Mrs. Carlsted: Sherman Way the most beautiful drive and people just used to come out. They planted trees and roses and palm trees and roses and oh the most beautiful blooming roses. It was a lovely drive. Though just on Sherman Way out and you hit it around where it turned off of oh on Van Nuys Boulevard and from there on out. ...?... to I don't know how far ...?... ...?....

Mr. Carlsted: ...Owensmouth. Each side of the railroad track a rose was all red. Think of how they had to feed those roses water during the summer time. ...?... tank wagons. Well they didn't they didn't run it they didn't through Van run it through Van Nuys Boulevard...

Mrs. Carlsted: No, not uh uh...

Mr. Carlsted: But they did run ...?... over Sherman Way...

Mrs. Carlsted: ...?... ...?... yes Sherman Way.

Mr. Carlsted: All the way from North Hollywood to Van Nuys Boulevard. Then Van Nuys was in there and then from here up to Canoga Park roses.

Dodson: I see.

Mrs. Carlsted: It was a beautiful drive and it just beautified the Valley. It was lovely. People could hardly believe it when they ...?... ...?... ...?... ...?....

Dodson: Did you ever go out to uh San Fernando in those days and attend any of their fiestas or celebrations out there?

Mr. Carlsted: No, we didn't do that a great deal. We didn't.

Mrs. Carlsted: No, I don't think we did. The first one we ever attended was when we went to Mexico and we ran into a nat...?... fiesta there. ...?... the way they do things in Mexico.

Dodson: Mhm.

Mrs. Carlsted: But they used to celebrate quite a lot...

Mr. Carlsted: San Fernando was uh an established town when Van Nuys came ...?... ...?... ...?....

Mrs. Carlsted:?... ...?... ...?... and Mexicans located out in that end of the Valley.

Boyer: What did people do for recreation at that time?

Mr. Carlsted: What did we do for recreation?

Boyer: Yes, what did you enjoy doing?

Mr. Carlsted: Walk around uh at night with a baby buggy? Oh we had all the recreation we wanted. ...?... I enjoyed uh ...?....ing around and growing things.

Boyer: Uh huh.

Mr. Carlsted: So I got plenty of recreation doing that. And uh Ruth I guess she enjoyed her cooking. That kept her busy. Until some years later...

Mrs. Carlsted: Oh I did of course.

Mr. Carlsted: ...when the plant closed I had to go to San Fernando or to Santa Barbara to get my teaching credential.

Boyer: Uh huh.

Mr. Carlsted: And I was up there about a year and a half or two years. And during that time uh Ruth went up to Sherman Oaks.

Mrs. Carlsted: At that time it was Bicket[Sp?] [?] Dickens[Sp?] [?] Street School. It's down in Sherman Oaks.

Mr. Carlsted: Bicket[Sp?] [?] Didckens[Sp?] [?] Street School. And uh she had she had to help out, because we we didn't have to much money when uh ...?... flat broke. And uh she helped out and she got a job up there organizing, starting from scratch, a cafeteria...

Boyer: Mhm.

Mr. Carlsted: ...at \$6 a week.

Mrs. Carlsted: And served a 10¢ plate lunch to the children. And then they bought their little bottle of milk.

Boyer: Mhm.

Mrs. Carlsted: That is really something to go in history, because it was so... And I went well I as I said I worked did office work and worked in uh for the Santa Fe. And I worked at one time in the early days um as a salesman in Bullocks. But other than that I hadn't uh any other trade. And uh by the time I was having to think about going to work, you know I had to think of something myself. And I had taken some adult classes in that lovely elementary school there in Sherman Way. And I took a sewing class in there ...?... class and so forth. And so I went to the principal and said, "Wouldn't you like to have a cafeteria? Don't you think you should have?"

Dodson: Hm.

Mrs. Carlsted: I said, "I have little children, and I know they get cold." They used to carry they had to bring their little lunches, and sit out on benches in all kinds of weather. Of course not in rain, I guess they were allowed to stay in the classroom. But uh she said, "Well I wanted one. We've tried to get one," she said, "but we haven't had any luck." She said, "We'd go down to the Board and the say they have no money." Are they tricky?

Dodson: No not really. I just left the uh first part of the uh tape on off a little bit. You were telling us about establishing the uh cafeteria...

Mrs. Carlsted: Yes.

Dodson: ...then. Go right ahead, tell us what happened.

Mrs. Carlsted: At that time it was Bicket[Sp?] [?] Dickens[Sp?] [?] Street School to old timers, those that remember. But

uh I think it's called The Sherman Oaks Elementary now. And a nice little school, nice teachers, I think there was about 12. They went up to the sixth grade as elementaries. And uh ...?...

Mr. Carlsted: This was about 1930 wasn't it?

Mrs. Carlsted: Must have been. I went down to The Board of Education and I went to the department that I was told to go. And asked them if they were interested in having a cafeteria in the school. I had talked to the principal, and she thought it would be very nice if they could have one there. For the little children especially, they needed it. They bring cold little lunches. So they said that they have no money. Well I said, "Could I use the uh uh Domestic Science Bungalow?" They had a Bungalow, Domestic Science, where they taught you know domestic science.

Boyer: Mhm.

Mrs. Carlsted: And to the sixth grade ...?.....

Mr. Carlsted: ...?... ...?... ...?.....

Mrs. Carlsted: Oh my voice is running out. So any way, its's so I sound like a crow talking. It's terrible. And I've had this since Christmas and it gets worse if I use my voice to much. Well any way, to make a long story short, they said, "Why yes, but we have no money to start anything with." I said, "May I use the equipment that the Domestic Science Bungalow has?" "Yes you may." So all right, I said to the principal, "May I come to your cafeteria meeting." Um what is it they call it when you have a meeting?

Boyer: Faculty?

Mrs. Carlsted: Huh.

Boyer: The faculty, or?

Mrs. Carlsted: No, just the ordinary meeting that where the mothers come to sometimes. I can't think of ...?....

Boyer: P.T.A.?

Mrs. Carlsted: And so I put my plea to the mothers. And uh I said, "I have the permission from The Board to use the Domestic Science Bungalow. Now would you mothers like to help in bringing any dishes that you might have at home: plates ~~and~~ cups without cracks or chips? We cannot accept anything with a chip or crack in it for sanitary reasons. But if you have any, I'll be glad to have them for the cafeteria."

Boyer: Mhm.

Mrs. Carlsted: I at that time had a little first grader, kindergartner. He was a kindergartner, Kenny my youngest son. And uh so I had to take him early with me when he was in kindergarten. And then so we started in on the 10¢ a day lunch for the children.

Dodson: Can you tell us what they would have received for the 10¢, what the lunch would have consisted of?

Mrs. Carlsted: Yes, yes. I had to dish out of kettles for a while. Just uh large kettles that I had aquired some of, and that they had used, I made basically a lot very good vegetable soup. And real vegetable soup. And I would go do my shopping. I had to do my own shopping, and

I'd buy meat uh shanks. The shank bone thats full of the marrow...

Boyer: Uh huh.

Mrs. Carlsted: ...and full of meat, and maybe that long. And put it in a kettle. Make the soup broth, and then I'd add all kinds of cut up vegetables: celery, and carrots, and onions, and just everything that would be good in soup, tomatoes. And uh then the children, I was allowed to have any child that wanted or the whole child all the whole school wanted to help me know. It was so cute. They'd wash dishes for their lunch, or they would help me for uh loved to help even at the ...?... table. And then I would make stews, a nice tray of stews, real meat. And real, just like I cooked at home I cooked. Cause I didn't know anything different. You know, I didn't every dare make quantity cooking except for helping ...?... Club you know...

Boyer: Uh huh.

Mrs. Carlsted: ...do something.

Mr. Carlsted: ...?... made a 2¢ sandwich, didn't you?

Mrs. Carlsted: Yeah, ...?... I'd give a hot dish, it was there would be a variety: Maybe macoroni and cheese, or stew, or um ...?... there was.

Mr. Carlsted: Noodles and tuna.

Mrs. Carlsted: Noodles and um um tuna, uh a dish, a hot dish. And they'd have a nice serving of that on their plate. And a little sandwich, a slice of bread buttered and folded together. And that was 10¢. Then we had the milk from the dairy, the little bottles of school milk, like that. For 5¢ they could buy. And that grew and

grew till I was serving 350 children a day.

Boyer: Good grief.

Mr. Carlsted: While she was doing that, I was going on up at Santa Barbara....?... And getting uh 25¢ blue plate dishes and lunches.

Mrs. Carlsted: Well.

Dodson: During during your uh teaching days, how did the students act? Did you have all the discipline problems that we hear about in the public schools at the present time?

Mr. Carlsted: Well, I don't think so, no. Uh I remember during my practice period teaching, I had one boy that I just couldn't control. He was floating around the room talking to everybody and everything. Finally one day I said, "Come on up here Bill" or whatever his name was. He came up, he wasn't sassy like they are today. And uh I said uh, "I think I'll let you teach the class. Now you take over my seat here and go right ahead and teach the class. I've told you time and again to uh stay in your seat, but I can't keep you there. So I put you in this seat and stay here," "Oh you wouldn't do that, would you Mr. Carlsted?" I says, "I sure would." I said, "Now you ready to stay where you belong and let me take care of the teaching in the room? Then we're gonna get along fine." From then on I didn't have any trouble with him. But uh my first assignment after my uh I got after I left Santa Barbara and got my teaching credential was uh with the school of boys at the uh teachers generally could not control.

They'd take a new teacher, and uh stick him on a job like that. And if he makes good fine. If he doesn't p't he's gone. So I hadn't been there more than uh oh a week when a great big Mexican boy came up to me. Weighed about 200 pounds. And he said, "Mr. Carlsted I am stronger than you are." ...?... uh uh. This is coming awful fast. I said, "How do we find out?" He said, "I will put my arm on the bench and you put yours on and I will throw you." And so oh my G-d I weighed 145 he weighed 200. But I said, "All right let's try it." So I put mine on, he put his on, flipped, I flipped him just that fast see. "Oh", he says, "I was not ready." "Well", I said, "Do you want to try it again?" A few snickers about about that time. He says, "Sure." And the same thing thing thing. I flipped him. He says, "I was not ready." "Well", I said, "I'll give you one more try." The kids by this time were laughing outrightly. And uh I did the same thing a third time. And the kids just broke up and laughed and walked off you know. And I had no more trouble of that class from then on.

Boyer: Thats funny.

Dodson: Did you have any trouble with narcotics and that sort of thing when you were teaching?

Mr. Carlsted: Not a thing, no. Uh they played uh they would play tricks on a teacher if they could and uh and uh...I remember one time uh, this probably shouldn't be for publication. You were not of course supposed to use a paddle on a kid.

Dodson: No that was obvious.

Mr. Carlsted: But in the special school, why uh it was in. I saw the principal one day uh tell a boy in the class he says, "Come up here," he said, "and take your swats." He

says, "I'm not coming up there." He says, "I'm coming after you." Kid says, "O.K." He went down there and he tore the boy and the bench and everything right out of the floor.

Boyer: Good grief.

Mr. Carlstead: "Now", he says, "you get up there and take your swats." Which the boy did. But uh one day at lunch time a couple of boys rushed in our room. And where we were eating there were three of us three of us teachers in this special school. And, "Mr. Carlsted quick quick they are up in the attic." I said, "What?" "Yes, the boys are up in the attic."

Mrs. Carlsted: This school was in San Fernando.

Mr. Carlsted: Well, I raced upstairs and I saw two legs hanging down through the plaster. And I thought "Oh yegads." I said, "What are you doing up there?" Not a word, and the legs start going up, you know. And I said, "What are you doing up there." "Oh we are chasing owls, Mr. Carlsted." Well I said, "Do you realize that you could have missed those 2 x 4's and gone clear through down here and gotten hurt?" "Oh we will be down." So they came down and I just lined the whole bunch of them up, about 20 of them, And they ...?... they said, "Mr. Carlsted you are hitting us too hard." And I said, "Maybe you guys will remember..."

Mrs. Carlsted: Not to chase owls.

Mr. Carlsted: ..not to go up in the attic and chase owls." Or oh ...?... you know.

Mrs. Carlsted: Poor little kids.

Dodson: Did you uh have much of a problem with vandalism at that time?

Mr. Carlsted: No.

Mrs. Carlsted: No.Mm.

Dodson: That of course is one of the big problems at the present time.

Mrs. Carlsted: Yes today, isn't it too bad?

Mr. Carlsted: ...?... no vandalism ...?... Uh this had been a grammar school up up there prior to making it a special school. And when we came up there we'd call it The...

Mrs. Carlsted: That was his first school.

Mr. Carlsted:?... Street College.

Mrs. Carlsted: They named it ...?....

Mr. Carlsted: We renamed it.

Mrs. Carlsted: It was Hoover[?] Street School.

Mr. Carlsted: But uh aside from handling the kids with a swat stick and uh uh keeping control of them, which you had to do or you were through,...

Boyer: Mhm.

Mrs. Carlsted: Paul had good discipline, because uh they knew he meant it. He wasn't uh he wasn't rough with them, but he meant what he said and they knew it.

Boyer: Uhuh.

Mrs. Carlsted: And I think he was respected for it.

Mr. Carlsted:?... ..?... I remember one teacher who was teaching uh metal shop. He was a very small man and uh a kid came rushing in one day. And, "Mr. Carlsted, quick they are killing Mr. ...?...." I said, "Where." "Over there." I went over there and I opened the door. Whamo, a softball hit him in the head you know. Well as soon as I opened the door why they kind of quieted down a bit and uh became normal. But things like that happened and uh he didn't uh last more than that semester. You know what I mean? He couldn't handle the those kids.

Mrs. Carlsted: If you couldn't handle discipline then you knew you couldn't make a teacher.

Mr. Carlsted: So uh you had to handle them uh as the occasion demanded. Shall we put it that way?

Dodson: Well that special school was that also on the elementary level? Or was that junior or senior high school level?

Mrs. Carlsted: Oh no.

Mr. Carlsted: No, that was all elementary.

Mrs. Carlsted: Just a little elementary. The oldest in the Valley I think it must have been, Paul.

Mr. Carlsted: Yeah.

Dodson: Were those children then that didn't get along in a regular school?

Mrs. Carlsted: Yes. They were hard for teachers to handle ...?...

disturb ...?..... Then they would would be sitting there.

Mr. Carlsted: They were a little hard to handle. Then they uh especially the women teachers couldn't handle them you know. I guess the men teachers handled them all-right, but uh the women teachers were having difficult problems.

Mrs. Carlsted: Then that was his first school. he learned the hard way, didn't he?

Mr. Carlsted: And I've always ...?... to miss teaching school. Man, I'd far rather take a blueprint up to the man upstairs and show him what I wanted built for the pipe organ than monkey around this way. But uh things straightened out and I got a school at the Canoga High then.

Mrs. Carlsted: But it worked out fine. Then he went to Canoga High. Was there how many years?

Mr. Carlsted: About 24 years.

Mrs. Carlsted: About 24 years. It was a nice school.

Mr. Carlsted: You found that a pleasant experience then teaching in high school at Canoga High?

Mrs. Carlsted: Yes.

Mr. Carlsted: Very nice experience.

Dodson: And what year was it that you retired from uh..

Mr. Carlsted: In uh 56.

Dodson:?..... I see.

Mr. Carlsted: Now uh during the time that I was in the pipe organ work, I made the plans for Reseda. Well Van Nuys High School first, we put a big pipe organ in there.

Mrs. Carlsted: You see we they had...

Mr. Carlsted: And then Reseda High School.

Mrs. Carlsted: ...a wealthy man that was boosting the Valley. And uh he gave them an organ. Had them build an organ, and he paid for it. For the school high school and thats still in the Van Nuys High School.

Mr. Carlsted: Well then we went to Reseda and put a uh school in the gra a pipe organ in the grammer school there and uh Canoga High where I eventually got to teach...

Mrs. Carlsted: And that was such pretty architecture out there. They had columns.

Mr. Carlsted: ...Uh we put a pipe organ in Canoga High. And Van Nuys High, I think I mentioned that we put one in there.

Mrs. Carlsted: Can I put just a little word in?

Mr. Carlsted: Hm.

Mrs. Carlsted: Can I put a little word about what comes to me? The beauty of the Canoga High it uh had columns and then it had a uh. Can you describe that walkway where the chil where they used to hold the Easter sunrise service service there? And it was so beautiful. And we often used to start out at 5:00 to go^{to} attend that. To get out there about the time. And we'd hear the most beautiful music coming from the orchestra of the school playing Easter...

Boyer: Uh huh.

Mrs. Carlsted: ...church music and all all on the organ I guess.

Mr. Carlsted: Well when we built that organ, uh the thought struck somebody that they wanted the music from the pipe organ to come out into the area where all these Easter things...

Mrs. Carlsted: Yes.

Mr. Carlsted: ...were were held. So we built a pipe organ that had an outside exposure for tone.

Boyer: Mm.

Mr. Carlsted: Which uh we haven't done before. And uh it was quite a novelty.

Mrs. Carlsted: And it had...

Dodson: Is that the same building that's there now?

Mrs. Carlsted: No the...

Mr. Carlsted: Uh no. that's been torn down maybe ...?....

Mrs. Carlsted: ...and it this had a sunken um they used it for the graduation, all graduations. It had a sunken bowl like and this uh walkway through pillars. Where all around it made it very artistic. And then...

Dodson: Mhm.

Carlsted: Canoga High was a beautiful school. And movies came out very often.

- Mr. Carlsted: and the ...?... graduates would get their diplomas you know. They'd walk around through this archway in their lovely white dresses. It was a very very lovely place. Nice school ideas.
- Dodson: Did that uh that present any different problems from teaching in the special school, when you were at the Canoga Park High School?
- Mr. Carlsted: Well, as the years went on the uh type of student seemed to change a little bit.
- Dodson: That I'd be very much interested in for our tape. Can you explain to us how the type seemed to change?
- Mr. Carlsted: Well, when I first came out there, uh uh you could tell the boys what you expected them to do and what should be done. And uh there was no renouncements on their part ...?... nice. Every now and then they'd pull a trick. One time a remember that they hung a quart bucket or a yeah no a gallon of water on a peg somewhere up on the ceiling. And when one of the boys came in, why somebody outside pulled the string and drenched him. You know what I mean. Well, a thing little thing like that uh it didn't happen to to often. But uh it did happen. In later years...
- Mrs. Carlsted: ...?... kind of missed if the boys were full of low tricks like that.
- Mr. Carlsted: ..in later years, as I said, uh the faculty[?] of the child seemed to change. I would have the boys help unload a load of lumber when it came. I'd say, "Come on boys let's get this load back and ...?... get going and give him a hand." Fine. A good many years later, I remember one time, this was the first time I think,

uh I'd ask a boy. I says, "Go on out there now and give him a hand and load that lumber. And let's get it in." He says, "I don't have to go out there and unload that lumber." I said, "What did you say?" He says, "I don't have to go out there and unload that lumber. You can't make me." "...?... tell you one thing." And I slapped him on the shoulder. I said, "If you don't think I can make you, maybe the principal can." I says, "Let's take a little walk in to the principal and see what he has to say." And uh we got that thing straightened out. You know what I mean. But uh times are changing a little bit. The type of people coming in were different...

Mrs. Carlsted: The family life I think.

Mr. Carlsted: ...And uh the kids seem to be raised slightly different.

Dodson: Mhm.

Mrs. Carlsted: You know there in the early days the families were different. Uh they didn't have the money that families have today. And uh they had to make their own fun and their own pleasures. And I think it made the children ...?....

Mr. Carlsted: ...?... the community grows...

Mrs. Carlsted: Yes.

Mr. Carlsted: ...you find different people. You know and uh...

Mrs. Carlsted: That's true.

Mr. Carlsted: ...that makes a change.

- Mrs. Carlsted: But I think the family life is different today maybe. A little looser and father and mother maybe not always setting the best of an example too, like the older people did.
- Dodson: Of course I imagine you retired before we began to get such a wave of vandalism and um troubles as we've had since.
- Mrs. Carlsted: Oh yes yes we did.
- Mr. Carlsted: I don't know of a single case of vandalism...
- Mrs. Carlsted: While you were teaching.
- Mr. Carlsted: ...at the time that I was there. But uh it has happened since.
- Dodson: Mhm. And I imagine that was before the ~~uh~~ use of narcotics became as wide spread as it is.
- Mrs. Carlsted: Oh yes ...?.... Oh that's a sad thing. It's too bad too bad.
- Dodson: So it sounds as though you didn't have really very many serious disciplinary problems.
- Mr. Carlsted: Not too many. I was able to handle them. Uh I remember one time uh kids were not supposed to be walking around school with a stack of cigarretes in their pocket. So uh I found one boy with his pocket pretty well loaded. And I said, "Better take it out of there or I'll take it out." "Oh," he says, "you can't do that." "Well," I said, "I think I can." I said, "Let's go and see the principal and ~~find~~^{find out} what he has to say about it." Which I did. And uh the principal wasn't uh...

Mrs. Carlsted: Too cooperative was he on that ...?....?

Mr. Carlsted:?... harsh about it. And finally I said, "Now Mr. So and So." Uh I said uh, "I told that boy not to walk around with cigarettes dangling in front of everybody in the class." And I said, "You know that's not right." And I said, "I expect you to back back me up," Well he finally did, But uh that was the first time that I had to ask a principal to...

Boyer: Back you up huh?

Mr. Carlsted: ...back me up.

Boyer: Hm.

Mrs. Carlsted: ...?... kids were just beginning I guess to smoke, you know, cigarettes maybe at that time. And uh they were trying to hold it down a bit by not allowing allow them to carry cigarettes to school or anything.

Dodson: Mhm. Paula, do you have any questions about high schooling schools? You were in school not too far back.

Mrs. Carlsted: No, it wasn't very long though, was it?

Boyer: Um, I don't think I really have any questions ...?.... It was it's longer than it looks. It was a long time ago. I look young, no.

Mr. Carlsted: A little bit. ...?.... I think ...?... would make it probably to ~~lengthy~~ a story. I remember one boy uh he never never caught on how to use his hands and the tools. And uh...

Mrs. Carlsted: But he tried so hard.

Mr. Carlsted: ...he would uh he would try. Finally one year why he came to me and said he wanted to make a little table and chairs for his little sister ...?.... It just can't be done. But I gave him a grade. And uh shortly after that, a committee of four, I think it was, said, "Mr. Carlsted can we talk to you about something?" I said, "Sure, what's it about?" "Well," they said, "you told us uh about what you expect us to do and what the requirements were for getting a grade in the course. And we know that you've given So and so a "D" grade, which will pass him."

Boyer: Mhm.

Mr. Carlsted: "Has he earned it?" ...?..., uh uh. I said, "No probably he hasn't. But let me tell you a story." I said, "That boy is in the two years I've had him has been very very interested, but he just doesn't seem to get the feel and the grip of things."

Mrs. Carlsted: But he tried.

Mr. Carlsted: "But," I said, "He wanted to build a table and chairs for his little sisters." And I said, "That in itself was certainly a worthwhile thought in the boy's mind." And I said, "If I were to turn him down and give him a failure, I would break that boy's heart." I said, "I just couldn't do it."

Boyer: Mhm.

Mr. Carlsted: They said, "We understand."

Mrs. Carlsted: And they went away happy. That's when they understand the student and feel he was partial.

Mr. Carlsted: Then I had another boy. Uh I think his name was Martinez. He would sit down at a bench and he would play and he would saw and he would sandpaper. I would regularly walk over and lift him up off his seat take the chair away. And I said, "Listen young man. You learn how to do this thing right. And when you go out, which you're going to do someday, and get a job. And if you go into woodworking, you're going to have to learn how to do it right." I said, "Why not do it right now?"

Boyer: Mhm.

Mr. Carlsted: "O.K." Next day same thing. He he never changed. And uh I gave him a "failure" finally. Uh I think two years. He just he just wouldn't wouldn't listen. And about two years later, the door opened. And during my, free period, this young man came in. And uh said, I was at my desk. He said, "Hello Mr. Carlsted, do you remember me?" "I sure do." I said, "You're the guy that used to sit over there sit on the bench sandpaper, playing, saw, drill, everything the wrong way around." I said, "Do you remember what I told you?" He said, "Yeah." He said, "That's what I came in to tell you about." He said, "You used to tell me that if I don't learn to do these things here, you're not going to learn make the job in industry, you're going to get fired. So I came in to tell you that I've been fired a couple times and that you were right and I was wrong."

Mrs. Carlsted: ...[?] Hard to follow ...[?]

Mr. Carlsted: So those are experiences that are worthwhile.

Mrs. Carlsted: ...[?] that he had done something that was worth while to that boy, you know...[?]

Mr. Carlsted: Then this kid a couple years later came in and tell me that uh

Boyer: I think there was a, a better rapport between a student and a teacher at that time. Were your classes smaller than they are now?

Mr. Carlsted: No, I had about uh thirty, thirty-two in which I taught

Boyer: Oh, that's a big class.

Mr. Carlsted: which was uh...[?]

Boyer: That's a big size class.

Mrs. Carlsted: Even girls were allowed to come in. And ...[?]...

Mr. Carlsted: Wouldn't have very many at that time, now would you? Girls...

Mrs. Carlsted:[?] chests, you know.

Mr. Carlsted: No, I have when I have girls I had just girls in the class of just about a dozen or fifteen. And mostly they were interested in carving work uh a great many of them I had what we call carving pirate chests.

Mrs. Carlsted: ...oh, chest pirates we call them, no...

Mr. Carlsted: Just a chest about so high and...

Mrs. Carlsted: oh, treasure chest we call them...[?]....[?]

Mr. Carlsted: And uh...

Mrs. Carlsted:[?] love letters with key and lock....[?]

Mr. Carlsted: It was a time spent with them that I enjoyed and they got enjoyment out of it. We're in the cafeteria one day and uh I saw a lady sitting across the way there looking at me I wondered who she was. Finally she came over and she said, "Are you Mr. Carlsted?" I said "Yes" I stood up and she said uh, "I had you in class year..." so and so I don't remember now what year but "Do you remember me?" Well, I couldn't say I did but uh she said, "I just saw you over here and I thought you were Mr. Carlsted and I wanted to go over and say hello to you."

Dodson: My first two years in teaching before I got my doctorate degree were in a high school in Denver. Uh I think a maybe in some ways we have a little harder because you can keep the hands busy in your type of teaching, but you see, in my type I couldn't.

Boyer: No.

Mrs. Carlsted: ...[?] keep the mind busy.

Dodson: So one of the first things I did when I got my class role was count the number of males and the number of females, hoping they would be balanced. Because then you set a boy, a girl, a boy, a girl, and you try to insulate the boys with a girl between each one and you cut down on the riot. Didn't you? ha...ha...ha... If you didn't have enough girls to go around then you're in trouble because that means that you're going to have boys sitting together...ha...ha...ha...

Mrs. Carlsted: ...Oh sure there's competition...[?] the way together.

Dodson: So you didn't have quite that problem. You could get along without girls in your class but I'd have been in trouble if I didn't have ...

Mr. Carlsted: No I would never have a girl in a mix uh in a boys' class. That would create trouble there.

Mrs. Carlsted: Yeah, they're picking at the boys then, you know, the few girls that would take the class.

Mr. Carlsted: But uh my teaching years to me are uh an experience that uh I enjoyed. I enjoyed my pipe organ work.

Mrs. Carlsted: It's his first love.

Mr. Carlsted: My first love. I still think it's a very interesting industry.

Dodson: I can imagine it would be. I imagine you were rather sorry when the plant closed then?

Mr. Carlsted: Well, Kemble[sp?] Company kept me right back uh twice.

Mrs. Carlsted: Then you ...[?] Chicago...Haiti's [sp?] way back...[?] our future where we'll be right now...[?]

Mr. Carlsted: Our final time, why uh, they were thinking of closing up themselves. So uh, I went into school teaching and uh, probably ended my pipe organ career.

Mrs. Carlsted: Talkies came in though you know, that hurt the theater.

Dodson: Oh yes.

Mrs. Carlsted: organ business and that was a big business. It got to be a big business because of course there are fewer churches to buy organs by far the theaters...and...

Mr. Carlsted: My grandsons took us to an eating place in San Jose, wasn't it?

Mrs. Carlsted: Yeah.

Mr. Carlsted: He said, "Gramps, they got a Wurlitzer[sp?] pipe organ up there and we want you to hear it. Oh it's wonderful!" Well, hmmm, I've heard something about how uh what total effects they got out...

Mrs. Carlsted:[?]

Mr. Carlsted: Well, I wasn't too enthusiastic but I said, "Fine, let's go over and..."

Mrs. Carlsted: They danced and they ate.

Mr. Carlsted: It was a small room. Pipe organ was about ten stocks.

Mrs. Carlsted: Was it one of yours, too?

Mr. Carlsted: No, it wasn't one of ours.

Mrs. Carlsted: Oh,[?]

Mr. Carlsted: With about fifty stock keys all around...

Mrs. Carlsted: And a good musician playing.

Mr. Carlsted: And uh let me tell you about that musician. Uh so we sat down and had our pieces and uh he started playing.

Mr. Carlsted: You can see the organ from where you sat. Uh it wasn't very large, but the room was small and uh by throwing on full crescendo pedal and just pounding everything as loud as he could, he really made noise in that room and I just went[?] this way.

Mrs. Carlsted: Oh, he was really....[?]...

Mr. Carlsted: Only the grandchildren looked at me and says, "Gramps, what's the matter? Don't you like this?"

Mrs. Carlsted:[?] ...oh, excuse really...

Mr. Carlsted: I said, "Ye gods, no!" I said, "I haven't heard a soft bit of music come out of that organ since I came in, nothing but loud smashing tone all the time." I said, "I'm going to talk to that organist before I leave." So, uh, I went up to the organist after we left and uh I said, "What kind of an organ is this?" I knew what it was, it was a Wurlitzer[sp?]. He said it was a Wurlitzer [sp?]. I said uh...

Mrs. Carlsted: The difference that I made ten years ago...ha...ha...

Mr. Carlsted: Do you have any ... I asked him, "Do you have any soft stops that he played." "No I don't believe I have." Well, it was a Wurlitzer [sp?] theater organ and uh, they're not very heavy on anything soft. They wanted everything just as keen and sharp as they possibly could.

Mrs. Carlsted: Well, kids like that.

Mr. Carlsted: You take violins every just as sharp and keen as you can think of. In church organ building it's another

Mr. Carlsted: story. The wind pressure is five inches , in theater organs it's ten to fifteen. And you get sharp, keen sounds. So it's a totally different uh different organ.

Dodson: That was my impression of the Wurlitzer [sp?] that it did have louder, harsher tones than some other makes of organs.

Mr. Carlsted: But uh...

Mrs. Carlsted: Are you a musician? Do you...[?]

Dodson: No.

Mrs. Carlsted: No?

Dodson: My mother was a pianist.

Mr. Carlsted: They primarily was..are theater organ builders.

Dodson: Uh huhm.

Mr. Carlsted: And uh, when we got into the theater on this street... When I came with them they were strictly pianist[?], strictly church and we gradually worked into the theater again and uh we became the biggest competitor with the with Wurlitzer [sp?]. We shipped organs east and they shipped organs west.

Mrs. Carlsted: Isn't that funny how a business goes?

Mr. Carlsted: But uh I said uh using your crescendo pedal and uh ...[?] all the time. "Well", he said uh,"in this kind of a joint, why doesn't it seem that everybody like that?"

- Mr. Carlsted: Well, I let it go at that, you know what I mean? But to me it was just a lot of a harsh, hard tone, playing just as loud as he could and that was it.
- Mrs. Carlsted: But that's what the old people like it. It's very popular with them.
- Mr. Carlsted: But the grandchildren seemed to like that kind of stuff and evidently he was giving people what they liked.
- Dodson: Well, from what I've read, it doesn't have to be good it just has to be loud.
- Mrs. Carlsted: Yeah, that's the idea of it
- Dodson: Of course I've also read that the hearing of many young people is going to be affected by that sort of thing.
- Mrs. Carlsted: You know, I've often wondered ,I always. It seemed to me it would be. I know men in industry that always work around noise all the time, it's reading articles, it always affected their hearing.
- Dodson: Uh hmm.
- Mrs. Carlsted: Loud machinery noise all the time that our ears can't take it. They weren't made to take noise like that. It was a quiet place when Adam and Even came in to this world. Ha...ha...ha...
- Dodson: Yes I can imagine that's true! Ha...ha...ha...
- Mr. Carlsted: Those churches are still building, uh , church organs those they are building.
- Dodson: I imagine that they would be found only in the larger

Dodson: churches, wouldn't they? The old pipe organs, or the old pipe organ types?

Mr. Carlsted: Yes, it would go to the larger churches where they spend uh, spend a hundred thousand dollars probably a bargain today

Dodson: Were you ...[?]

Mr. Carlsted:[?]...in organ churches since mortuaries can't can't afford the organ prices of today. So the little electric pipe organ is the thing for smaller churches.

Dodson: Do you play the pipe organ yourself?

Mr. Carlsted: No, uh I've...

Mrs. Carlsted: He's always a little mad when he has to say no, too.

Mr. Carlsted: ...taken groups through the factory time and again, show them the plan, what we are doing and invariably, Mr. Carlton[sp?] really play for us. Sorry, I know the mechanics of it, but I can't tickle the keys.

Mrs. Carlsted: Too bad he didn't really ...[?] up when he was grown, you know, and take lessons and learn to play that pipe organ.

Mr. Carlsted: Well I've got somebody who could and uh, we like him anyway.

Dodson: Well Paula, do you think of something you'd like to ask about that uh, we haven't talked about so far?

Boyer: Uh, not neccessarily, thought you might. Uhm, how do

you feel about the valley growing the way it has?
And the changes that you've seen take place here?

Mr. Carlsted: Well, in years back, twenty-five, thirty, forty years back, I said that the valley is a logical source of city expansion and believe me, it has been.

Boyer: Yeah.

Mr. Carlsted: The people have come in...

Mrs. Carlsted: Well, you can't stop progress....[?]

Mr. Carlsted: And if I had only been able to save something out of two dollars a day...

Mrs. Carlsted: ...and they seem pretty nice about it....[?]

Mr. Carlsted: In the early days, when you can buy an acre of land here for four hundred, five hundred dollars, which uh, fifteen years later would sell for ...uh a thousand or fifteen hundred. You see how things started climbing?

Mrs. Carlsted: A lot of money was made on buying...

Dodson: Of course from that wage, you couldn't save enough to buy anything like that.

Mr. Carlsted: No, no.

Mrs. Carlsted: The ordinary people are usually starting from nothing and just from their salary, couldn't save much just on raising a family...

Mr. Carlsted: We manage say, uh, the first house we built uh, cost

seventy-five dollars to erect it, probably three or four hundred dollars for the lumber. And, uh, we made do with that. Ruth and I put all the plaster boards up I built all the things that had to go into it after that. And the contractor at seventy-five dollars uh, hung all windows and all the doors, that was all done. So, we did pretty well for our place for about a year. And then we built uh in front of that uh a larger house. So uh...

Mrs. Carlsted: Mention the funny little built-in uh breakfast room, or breakfast table...

Mr. Carlsted: Oh yeah.

Mrs. Carlsted: It's so funny to me now.

Mr. Carlsted: We were[?] having a breakfast table on the wall, you know dusted down cause uh the kitchen was rather small.

Boyer: Ha..ha..ha...

Mr. Carlsted: So uh...

Mrs. Carlsted:[?]...in those days, it was hooked up, I think, to the wall, didn't it? It, uh, it reached so high...

Mr. Carlsted: I'll tell you one thing, the children of today ...

Mrs. Carlsted:[?]...and then we have to go and sit and....[?]

Mr. Carlsted: The children of today don't know how to save a penny. They've been brought up in too much luxury. And they go out and spend for eats and...

Mrs. Carlsted: ...somebody's going to get a ticket.

[police siren is heard in the background of tape]

Mr. Carlsted: Well, our son took us out last night to a dinner. Seven dollars a plate. I still don't go for that. I uh I've been...

Mrs. Carlsted: Well when you have saved all your life carefully, you just can't squander the money.

Mr. Carlsted: ...savings, have to learn to save and uh if I could get a cafeteria dinner that costs me two and a quarter and uh filled me up, fine.

Dodson: Well I don't even spend that much, now I like to take Paula out to dinner now and then but I take her out to McDonald's. Ha...ha...ha... Paula knows that when she gets an invitation that's where we're headed.

Mrs. Carlsted: But you know, we've saved enough to have a good life. We went to Europe, we had a trip to Europe...

Boyer: Oh, that's nice.

Mrs. Carlsted: We've visited uh eleven countries.

Mr. Carlsted: We've built about five houses in the time that we, from the time we came and landed here...

Mrs. Carlsted: In our lifetime, we moved five times had a nice place up in Sherman Oaks. and uh...

Boyer: Did you built all of them?

Mrs. Carlsted: Not uh...

Mr. Carlsted: We didn't build them, we had them built.

Mrs. Carlsted: ...we didn't build them, we had them built.

Boyer: You had them built.

Dodson: Now, on that, excuse me, that two dollar wage. Were you able to save anything or would that require uh the expenditure of every bit of it for living expenses?

Mr. Carlsted: No, we ...

Mrs. Carlsted: I think it did at that time, Paul. We...

Mr. Carlsted: Hhmm?

Mrs. Carlsted: Oh we did at that time. We couldn't save anything much out of it.

Mr. Carlsted: Oh we must have. Because, uhm, when the Depression came on, uhm some years later, the wage had gone uh probably oh, up to three dollars I think about that time a little bit. Uh, I made a loan to build a home, and uh during that time instead of paying fifty dollars a month on my loan, I would be paying seventy-five dollars a month.

Mrs. Carlsted: Then we...

Mr. Carlsted: And when the Depression came on, for a whole year I didn't have to make a single payment I was very much uh...

Mrs. Carlsted: Wasn't that lucky? We would have lost it otherwise...

Mr. Carlsted: ...we would have lost it.

Mrs. Carlsted: ...because we couldn't pay it.

Dodson: Uh hmm.

Mr. Carlsted: But the children of today haven't lost, haven't found out the...

Mrs. Carlsted:[?]...can't put their heads somewhere, you know, they just have so much luxury in this day and age.

Mr. Carlsted: ...things we old people have run across.

Mrs. Carlsted: They can't ever think it's going to be different.

Mr. Carlsted: I remember my dad raising his own family on two dollars a day, and he tells us the stories. He worked for McCormack's. I came from Stockholm, by the way, Stockholm from Chicago. I tell people that and they say, "Why, you speak good English." Ha...ha...ha... But you know, foreigners at that time Swedens would land here, and the Germans up in Bismarc and some over here are Italians and over here they're Irish, and the Romanians...

Mrs. Carlsted: All of them when they came to this country, they would would speak their language and they...

Dodson: Yes.

Mr. Carlsted: ...All have their own separate language and...

Mrs. Carlsted: have friends in Europe and they knew they didn't locate in that sense.

Dodson: Your father had come from Sweden?

Mr. Carlsted: Sweden, yes.

Mrs. Carlsted: They were born there. Oh, they uh...

Mr. Carlsted: But uh, we could've learned from the Polish people. By golly, and my dad had uh, a two-story house right across the street...the Polish people were building three story brick buildings. You know how they did it? I found out after I started working for Kemble [sp?]. I watched them going out for lunch, they have a long rod about six feet long, full of cans...

Mrs. Carlsted: Beers.

Mr. Carlsted: ...[?] up with beers, then they come home and they'd have a little pickle and a little sausage and a piece of bread. And those are the only Polish people that save every penny that they could possibly save. They, they got ahead in the world.

Dodson: Uh hmm.

Mrs. Carlsted: They, they own big buildings and they became wealthy.

Mr. Carlsted: No, we never heard ...[?]...we never got around to that ...

Mrs. Carlsted: And they came as peasants.

Mr. Carlsted: ...but we always got our nose out of water, you know what I mean? And uh we did all right. He told the story about uh I don't know if I told you before, about working for McCormack's and one day, McCormack came

around and said, "John, I think we're gonna have to lay you off." "Oh," he said, "Mr. McCormack, you can't do that I've got to work." "Well, John", he says, "You're getting old and I think it's about time you should retire." "Oh no, Mr. McCormack, I've got to work, I've got to work."

Mrs. Carlsted: He was so worried.

Mr. Carlsted: "Well John, I'll tell you what we're going to do." And I think this is the first time they thought ever of pensioning anybody retiring. He said, "We'll give you I think, seventy-five or one hundred dollars a month."

Mrs. Carlsted: Pension.

Mr. Carlsted: "Returned pension. You won't have to work. You can go up and celebrate, buy yourself a little house and some chickens and enjoy life." "Oh, Mr. McCormack, that's just so nice, so nice." And uh, well he lived on that, got a little house out there and it wasn't so little either! The house today. When they sold it, I think they sold it for eight thousand dollars. That house today, if it was still standing, would probably have been fifty or sixty, you see how times have changed?

Dodson: Uh hmm.

Mrs. Carlsted: It had two stories.

Boyer: Yeah, that's not too little, that's uh big.

Mr. Carlsted: But that is the first time I can recall of hearing of people being retired. And he had worked for them a good many years, in the shop. That was an event that uh

frightened him and at the same time worked out very nicely.

Boyer: Yeah.

Dodson: Well Mr. Carlsted, can you think of anything else relating to the valley that we haven't talked about? That uh, you feel should be put on our tape?

Mrs. Carlsted: Put your shoes on, it's getting kind of cold.

Mr. Carlsted: Hhmm. Well...

Dodson: Is there anything which made uh a special impression on you since you lived here that uh you might mention?

Mr. Carlsted: No, I think I've just gone along with the valley and uh realized that every now and then something big was happening. Something was uh something was growing. We saw little towns spring up here and there and uh people coming in. Any particular event? Uh, I can't say that I do, I've just seen the valley grow. As I've said before, I felt that this was a logical center for a city expansion and uh it certainly have been.

Dodson: Do you feel that the valley should secede from Los Angeles, we uh see some agitation about that at the present time.?

Mr. Carlsted: Well, uh.

Dodson: It was not part of Los Angeles when you got here, I think.

Mr. Carlsted: No, uh, when the water came in, why uh...

Dodson: That was the reason for that.

Mr. Carlsted: ...we had to join, yes. No, I uh I don't think so. I think we were so intertwined with Los Angeles now that uh it would be almost impossible to withdraw.

Dodson: One of the leaders of the movement is Senator Robbins who comes from the valley. And who is a candidate for mayor against Bradley. Well, I haven't found so far, among the people we interviewed, any sentiments for withdrawal.

Mr. Carlsted: I've never felt uh interested in even the thought of the valley withdrawing.

Dodson: If you have had any children of elementary or junior high school age who might have been bussed to some other section of the city, would that change uh your opinion?

Mr. Carlsted: Well, the bussing certainly does change my opinion. And I don't know if it's a good thing to put it on tape or not.

Dodson: Well, I don't think it really matters because there's plenty of people on both sides on that so uh ...

Mr. Carlsted: I think this integrating of uh, all minority groups with the average run Americans uh can't be carried too far. Carried it so far that eventually it's going to drag the learning level down of the children. If you're mixing them up uh if you're mixing up a bunch of children who are uh not quite as bright, shall we say, cause they haven't had the education...

Mrs. Carlsted: Haven't had the opportunity...because of the family.

Mr. Carlsted: earlier and haven't had the opportunity. And you put them in with some of the other children who had, I think

it's going to bring the grade level down.

Dodson: Have you heard, uh, many expression of opinions of this among the people you know? How they stand on this issue?

Mr. Carlsted: I think a great many of them do feel that way. It's uh too bad to say so but uh...

Mrs. Carlsted: I feel that way too. It might be the uh...

Mr. Carlsted: ...you can't take people who know very little, throw em in with a group that is much further advanced and ...

Mrs. Carlsted: ...you slow down those children that can learn...

Mr. Carlsted: ...get the interest of the higher group on to the lower group...

Mrs. Carlsted: ...faster and go ahead. Then it is to[?]

Mr. Carlsted: ...and the lower group not even carrying it up to the higher group.

Mrs. Carlsted: ...that child that has been. They should have education and good teachers in their own towns and keep the standards up as high as they can be.

Mr. Carlsted: They say, the colored people, the colored people are of course, the strongest for that. The Chicanos, they are to a great extent. But a colored teacher has to get through the same record to get a credential to teach. And, the colored people say to that, well we don't get the same education that the white people get. There is something wrong along the line then, because they are

supposed to have the same mental rating for uh teaching credential as the uh white people do. That's the uh...

Mrs. Carlsted: ...[?]. ...goes through the time and always have to meet standards to teach.

Mr. Carlsted: I think the long and short of it, you're going to have to lower the grading level there a little.

Dodson: Uh hmm. Now if you were still teaching at uh Canoga Park High School, and uh found that you were to be shifted to the inner city school as some teachers apparently are, how would you feel about that?

Mr. Carlsted: Well, if I had a chance to, I'd just drop out.

Dodson: Ha...ha...ha... I see.

Mrs. Carlsted: He wouldn't like that a bit. I don't think the teachers like it.

Dodson: No, I gather there's a great deal of opposition to that force changing of schools, from one to another.

Mrs. Carlsted: And I don't think it's right, it isn't right to teachers. They may have borrowed homes near their schools and everything, and have families there. And why should they be taken out? And I don't believe in that bussing at all.

Dodson: Uh hmm. Well, I believe ...

Mrs. Carlsted: I don't believe I'm biased by uh color of skin or anything. I think they should have education in their own locales. Good teachers and good school right there.

Mr. Carlsted: Mexican kids would gang up and started talking Spanish, and I'd go over and say, "Come on you guys, speak English. We're in the United States now, not in Mexico." "But we do not wish to, Mr. Carlsted, we do not wish to." That's their attitude, you see what I mean? And uh, if they have that attitude, and don't care to learn, then why in the devil should we have to have Spanish on our registration sheets for voting? If they can't learn the language and understand what they're voting for.

Dodson: Did you have many minority trouble at Canoga Park High when you were there?

Mr. Carlsted: Just a little bit.

Dodson: I imagine ~~that~~ would not be ethnically mixed school anyway.

Mrs. Carlsted: No, not that far in the valley.

Mr. Carlsted: No, there were ...

Mrs. Carlsted: San Fernando[?]

Mr. Carlsted: ...quite a few Spanish out there. I think I had one or two colored boys during the years that I taught.

Dodson: Has there been any minority troubles in the valley, in the times that you've lived here? That you know of, or has the valley been relatively free of that sort of thing?

Mr. Carlsted: No uh, I think, except for what uh whatever happens in the after hours. Sabotage, you know, going in and wrecking things and uh stuff like that. That's done when they're covered in the darkness. But uh, normally I don't think we have much trouble.

Dodson: I think that's pretty much what other people have told us, that the valley has been pretty free of minority troubles and minority tensions.

Mrs. Carlsted: The east side, I think, the east side of Los Angeles has had more trouble. I guess they're just more thickly settled there.

Mr. Carlsted: I think some of ...[?]...narcotics over here, and uh...

Mrs. Carlsted: Oh yes.

Mr. Carlsted: That causes it.

Mrs. Carlsted: It's too bad.

Mr. Carlsted: These kids, in junior high, if they ever get over that step, and from then on, it's just so much for that, you know. It's a pity that those things happen.

Mrs. Carlsted: And that's mostly coming in from Mexico, isn't it?

Dodson: I guess much of the narcotics is, from what I read in the newspaper. Well I think that about concludes what I had in mind, Paula do you have any suggestions?

Mrs. Carlsted: Ha...ha... we probably gave you a lot more than you ever wanted.

Dodson: No, we're delighted to have this, I assure this.

Boyer: No, I don't think there is anything, I've asked it.

Dodson: Well, we certainly appreciate this, Mr. and Mrs. Carlsted, what you have done for us. You've given us some information about the organ factory, for instance, that we

didn't have from anybody else. And we were very anxious to hear about that.

Mrs. Carlsted: That's good.

Mr. Carlsted: I was the assistant superintendent, uh, throughout the last six or seven years. Superintendent of construction that they were operating.

Dodson: We have some pictures of the interior of the organ factory. If I'd known we were going to interview you, I think we would have brought our pictures over. Maybe you would have recognized some of the men in them.

Mr. Carlsted: You know, I've had a picture, I think I've loaned out many a picture many a times...

Mrs. Carlsted: I do too...[?]...in my days...

Mr. Carlsted: ...and uh, one time, the one that I treasure the most was one of these thirty foot ...

Mrs. Carlsted: One of those big pipes.

Mr. Carlsted: ...[?] basins...

Mrs. Carlsted: ...and there's two young girls from the[?]

Mr. Carlsted: and the young girl, just sticking out her head, just one this time. And you could put two, of my size, inside of that basin. And then you think of getting a diam...a diameter of a lead pencil. A toe[?], I mean a pipe has much the characteristics uh, that is characteristically named, only. It has a toe, it has a foot, it has a lower lip, it has an upper lip, it has a body,

it has teeth. All parts of a pipe.

Mrs. Carlsted: And they're turned....[?]....

Mr. Carlsted: And to tune a pipe, you you either sorta bang it, or for instance if you have an eight foot board on and you want to make a sixteen out of it, you in, it compresses the area. Doubles the area, as a matter of fact. And uh, if you wanted full length, why uh, I do say, I have heard of sixty-four foot, but I don't know if anything like that ever happened in this country. But uh, ...[?].... The joy of working in a pipe organ plant, the joy that I got out of it because of all my experiences of working from the bench and up through was an interesting part of my life.

Mrs. Carlsted: Uhm, the production itself.

Dodson: Well, we have to go back now and see if we have a picture of you.

Boyer: Yeah, we may.

Dodson: In some of these pictures we have of the organ factory.

Mr. Carlsted: Did you uh, I don't know whether you saw me, I was interviewed by the Times. How many years ago was that Ruth? Uh, ten, twelve years ago?

Mrs. Carlsted: It was written in 1965. About five, I think. Time gets away from me, so..

Dodson: Well, there was an article in the paper very recently about someone who worked in the organ factory.

Mrs. Carlsted: Oh yes, we know.

Dodson: Is it someone you knew, or did you see the article?

Mr. Carlsted: I didn't see the article.

Mrs. Carlsted: Would that, would that have been[?]

Dodson: I think it was in the L.A. Times, or it may have been the Van Nuys News, I'm not sure.

Mrs. Carlsted: Would that have been Bergston [sp?]

Mr. Carlsted: No, he went on he went on t.v. coverage.

Mrs. Carlsted: Oh, I see.

Mr. Carlsted: But not because of having worked in a pipe organ factory. I don't know who that could have been.

Dodson: Well, we certainly appreciate all that you've done for us and as I say, we're glad to get this...

Mr. Carlsted: I hope we didn't wear you out.

Dodson: ...oh, you certainly didn't. We're glad to get this information that we haven't had before.